

## Virus Identification (Culture)

<b>Test Description</b>	Detection and identification of live viruses from human specimens
<b>Test Use</b>	Diagnosis of viral infections
<b>Test Department</b>	Virology Phone: (860) 920-6662, FAX (860) 920-6661
<b>Methodology</b>	Isolation in cell culture and identification by fluorescent microscopy or PCR
<b>Availability</b>	Daily, Monday-Friday
<b>Specimen Requirements</b>	Swab submitted in viral transport media. Use only polyester or Dacron-tipped swabs with plastic or aluminum shafts. Do NOT use calcium alginate or cotton-tipped swabs, or wood shafted swabs. Fluid specimens (such as CSF or BAL) require 2 mL in an empty sterile screw capped container.
<b>Collection Kit/Container</b>	To obtain collection kit, refer to Collection Kit Ordering Information.
<b>Collection Instructions</b>	Specimens should be collected as soon as possible after illness onset, when the greatest amount of virus is present. Standard aseptic specimen collection procedures should be followed. Immediately place specimen into viral transport media.
<b>Specimen Handling &amp; Transport</b>	Store and transport specimens at 2-8° C. Specimens should be received within 48 hours of collection.
<b>Unacceptable Conditions</b>	Unlabeled specimens Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit Specimens improperly collected, stored or transported.
<b>Requisition Form</b>	Clinical Test Requisition (select <b>Virus Identification</b> )
<b>Required Information</b>	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #) Patient name or identifier, town of residence (city, state, zip), date of birth Specimen type or source, date collected, test requested Please ensure patient name on the requisition matches that on the specimen.
<b>Limitations</b>	Only live virus will be detected. A negative result does not rule out the presence of a virus in the specimen. Stage of illness, specimen collection technique, specimen handling and transport affect sensitivity of the test.

Revision: 8/25/15